*(English version)*

**Priority question for written answer P-001371/24**
**to the Commission**
**Dirk Gotink (PPE), Daniel Freund (Verts/ALE)**
*(17 July 2024)*

*Subject:* Lobbying and transparency rules regarding the new position of Diederik Samsom

Diederik Samsom started as Supervisory Board President of Gasunie on 1 July 2024. Samsom used to be Head of Cabinet of former Commissioner Frans Timmermans, but he did not ask the Commission for permission to take up this new role, which is against the rules.

1. Samsom was obliged to inform the Commission about his new position, but did not do so before assuming it. What will be the consequences of this infringement?

2. Does the Commission agree that Samsom's new position seems to be in violation of the lobbying rules and represents a possible conflict of interest, given the fact that Samsom was the Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Timmermans and that he has profound knowledge of the networks and in-house information inside the Commission related to issues that could be relevant to Gasunie?

3. Does the Commission agree that a cooling down period is appropriate to safeguard the credibility and image of the European institutions, given the fact that Gasunie is a recipient of EU funds and that Samsom was in touch several times during his work at the Commission and has in-depth knowledge of the Commission's work and teams as they relate to topics that directly affect the interests and activities of Gasunie?

Submitted: 17.7.2024

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission**
*(6 March 2025)*

Diederik Samsom informed the Commission about his appointment by the Dutch Minister of Finance to the function of chair of the Supervisory Board of Gasunie, a transmission system operator in charge of large-scale energy infrastructure for transport and storage which is 100% owned by the Dutch State.

After a thorough examination of Mr Samsom's responsibilities in the Commission during his last three years in the service and of his envisaged activity as well as of risks resulting thereof for the interests and reputation of the institution, the Commission issued a decision authorising the employment subject to the respect of strict restrictions.

These restrictions will be disclosed at a later stage, as part of the Commission's annual publication of information concerning the occupational activities of senior officials after leaving the service.

As regards Mr Samsom's late notification of his intended employment, the Commission would like to recall that, according to Article 16(2) of the Staff Regulations ([1]), staff members must inform their institution of their intention to engage in an occupational post-service activity, during the two years after leaving the service.

The Investigation and Disciplinary Office of the Commission has been mandated to establish whether Mr Samsom was in breach of this obligation. Information on individual cases is confidential.

([1]) Regulation No 31 (EEC), 11 (EAEC), laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community.